

REMARKS

Applicant's representative would like to formally thank the Examiner for extending the courtesy of an interview on May 9, 2002.

The Examiner's comments in the Interview and the Advisory Office Action of April 3, 2002, have been carefully noted. The above amendments and the following remarks are submitted as a full and complete response thereto.

By this Response, claim 1 has been amended. No new matter is presented.

In the Final Office Action, Claims 1, 2, and 5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph. The amendments to claim 1 incorporate the summing features of the invention as suggested by the Examiner in the interview summary of May 9, 2002.

Consequently, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1, 2 and 5 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph as stated in the Final Office Action of January 3, 2002 is respectfully requested.

In the Final Office Action, claims 1, 2, and 5, were also rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Ohsato (U.S. Patent No. 5,159,589).

The rejection is respectfully traversed because Ohsato fails to disclose teach or suggest all the features recited in claim 1 on which claims 2 and 5 depend.

Amended claim 1 recites a reading system for reading a writable optical disc having an information writing track, a guiding track for introducing a laser beam to the information writing track, and prepit information including address information recorded on the guiding track, the system comprising a first photodetector having photodetecting elements divided at least by a first dividing line optically parallel with a tangential

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direction of the information writing track of the disc for detecting reflected light of a first laser beam irradiated to the information writing track. In addition, claim 1 recites a plurality of adders for adding outputs of the photodetecting elements on each side of the first dividing line of the first photodetector and a second photodetector having photodetecting elements divided at least by a second dividing line optically parallel with the tangential direction for detecting reflected light of a second laser beam irradiated to the guiding track. Claim 1 also recites a plurality of adders for adding outputs of photodetecting elements on each side of the second dividing line of the second photodetector and first difference signal producing means for producing a first difference signal based on a difference between the added outputs of the photodetecting elements of each side of the first photodetector being divided by the first dividing line. Lastly, claim 1 recites second difference signal producing means for producing a second difference signal based on a difference between the added outputs of the photodetecting elements of each side of the second photodetector being divided by the second dividing line, level adjust means for adjusting a level of at least the second difference signal, and tracking error signal producing means for producing a tracking error signal based on subtracting an output signal of the level adjust means from the first difference signal.

Ohsato fails to disclose, teach or suggest a plurality of adders for adding outputs of the photodetecting elements on each side of the first dividing line of the first and second photodetectors as recited in claim 1. In addition Ohsato fails to disclose, teach or suggest difference signal producing means for producing first and second difference

signals based on a difference between the added outputs of the first and second photodetecting elements of each side of the first and second photodetectors being divided by dividing lines as recited in claim 1.

Ohsato, merely recites that the signal producing circuit block is constructed to obtain a first difference between detection output signals obtained respectively from the two parts of the first photodetecting element, a second difference between the detection output signals obtained respectively from the two parts of the second photodetecting elements a third difference between detection output signals obtained respectively from the two parts of the third photodetecting element (Column 3, lines 52-65, also See Fig. 4).

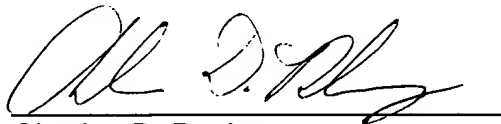
Consequently, as discussed above, Ohsato does not disclose, teach or suggest all the features of claim 1. Thus, withdrawal of the rejection of claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is respectfully requested.

Claims 2 and 5 depend from claim 1. Therefore, they are patentable for at least the same reasons discussed above with respect to claim 1 and for the additional features recited therein. Thus, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 2 and 5 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is also respectfully requested

Should the Examiner believe anything further is desirable in order to place this application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

In the event this paper is not considered to be timely filed, the Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Any fees for such an extension, together with any additional fees that may be due with respect to this paper, may be charged to Counsel's Deposit Account No. 01-2300 making reference to Attorney Docket No. 107156-00033.

Respectfully submitted,



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Enclosures: Marked-Up Copy Claims
Request For Continued Examination

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MARKED-UP COPY CLAIMS

1. (Twice Amended) A reading system for reading a writable optical disc having an information writing track, a guiding track for introducing a laser beam to the information writing track, and prepit information including address information recorded on the guiding track, the system comprising:

a first photodetector having photodetecting elements divided at least by a first dividing line optically parallel with a tangential direction of the information writing track of the disc for detecting reflected light of a first laser beam irradiated to the information writing track;

a plurality of adders for adding outputs of the photodetecting elements on each side of the first dividing line of the first photodetector;

a second photodetector having photodetecting elements divided at least by a second dividing line optically parallel with the tangential direction for detecting reflected light of a second laser beam irradiated to the guiding track;

a plurality of adders for adding outputs of photodetecting elements on each side of the second dividing line of the second photodetector;

first difference signal producing means for producing a first difference signal based on a difference between the added outputs of the photodetecting elements of each side of the first photodetector being divided by the first dividing line;

second difference signal producing means for producing a second difference signal based on a difference between the added outputs of the photodetecting elements of each side of the second photodetector being divided by the second dividing line,

level adjust means for adjusting a level of at least the second difference signal,
and

tracking error signal producing means for producing a tracking error signal based
on subtracting an output signal of the level adjust means from the first difference signal.

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